



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - January 7, 2003

- ***In the West***, warm, dry weather favors a return to fieldwork in previously soaked ***northern California*** and the ***Pacific Northwest***, but unfavorably dry conditions persist from the ***Southwest to the central Rockies***.
- ***On the Plains***, record warmth prevails across the ***northern half of the region***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to approach 70 degrees F. Although overwintering wheat on the ***Plains*** has experienced generally favorable weather to date, concerns for wheat on the drought-affected ***northern and central High Plains*** include soil moisture shortages, lack of snow cover, and exposure to potential weather extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool weather and snow showers linger across ***eastern portions of the region***, while record warmth and dry conditions favor off-season fieldwork in the ***upper Midwest***.
- ***In the South***, dry weather is promoting a limited return to fieldwork, although cool weather continues to limit evaporation from wet fields and flooded lowlands.

Outlook: Cool, unsettled weather will persist in the ***Great Lakes, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic States*** through mid-week, while a strong high-pressure system will maintain dry, unseasonably mild conditions across much of the ***central and western U.S.*** For the next few days, temperatures will average as much as 30 degrees F above normal across the ***northern and central Plains***, while warmth will overspread the ***Corn Belt***. By week's end, a shift in the jet stream will allow colder air to overspread most areas ***east of the Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 12-16 calls for below-normal precipitation in most areas from the ***Southwest to the Northeast***. Above-normal precipitation will be confined to the ***northern Rockies, northern High Plains***, and parts of the ***Southeast***. Below-normal temperatures are expected across the ***South and East***, while above-normal temperatures are forecast in most areas from ***California to the upper Midwest***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)